

#BXNFMXY  
#000029104239#  
SOUTHERN BAPT  
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401  
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3620  
CARRIER ROUTE 35  
005-OTM 4-22  
HISTORICAL 5000C

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

APRIL 23, 1998

VOL. 122

No. 12

## WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Causey to retire

3

TLW goes to Governor

4

SSB damaged by tornado

5

Letters to the Editor

8

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES  
Nashville, Tennessee

APR 28 1998

# THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## News not all good from 'moderate' Iran

LONDON (BP) — Is Iran really becoming more "moderate" and backing away from its hard-line Islamic stance?

Not at all, say Iranian Christians in North America and Europe who track events in the country. Iran's harsh repression of Christian minorities includes murder, imprisonment, arrests, torture, loss of jobs and fines, the sources say.

Iran is trying to convince the world that Christians in Iran are faring better as they seek improved international trade agreements, but Iranian Christians insist nothing has improved.

Several evangelical Christian leaders have been murdered in Iran in recent years, including Bishop Haik Hovsepian-Mehr, pastor Mehdi Dibaj, and pastor Tateos Michaelian, all in 1994.

Iranian Christian sources blame the government in the murders. Now they believe the government targets ordinary Christians who were Muslim converts, especially if they encourage Muslims to convert.

"It is a regular practice of the Islamic Republic of Iran to force leaders of religious minority groups, including evangelical Christian pastors, to make false statements regarding the human rights condition of the religious minorities," the sources charge.

Although the Iranian Christian sources are unnamed for security reasons, they cite numerous names, places, incidents, and dates in their reports. They also cite other documents, such as the 1997 Country Report on Human Rights Practices by the U.S. Department of State.

The report states that Iran's human rights record remains "poor." It adds: "Systematic abuses include extra-judicial killings and summary executions; disappearances; widespread use of torture and other degrading treatment; harsh prison condi-

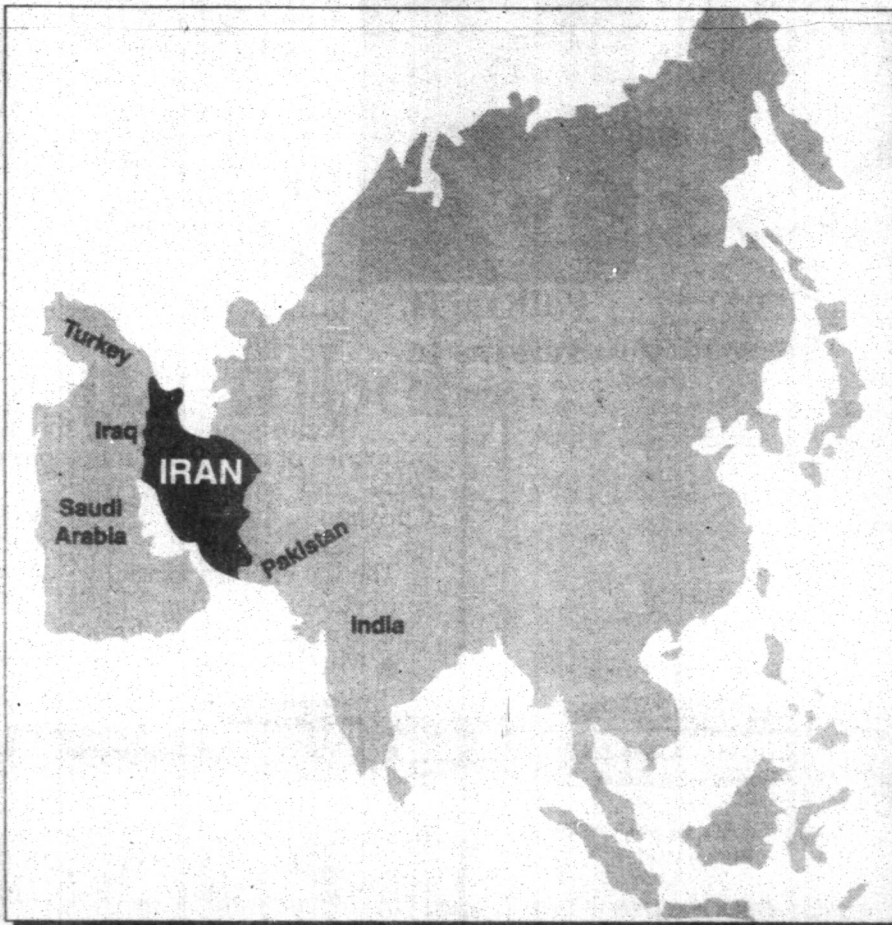
tions; arbitrary arrest and detention; lack of fair trials; infringement on citizens' privacy rights; and restriction of the freedoms of speech, press, assembly, association, religion and movement."

In 1996, pastors and church leaders were arrested and forced to agree to a series of limitations. Talking to non-Christians about Jesus Christ was forbidden, as were inviting Muslims to enter a Christian church and baptizing a person of Muslim background.

Church leaders were told contact with the outside world requires prior knowledge of the government's Ministry of Information and Islamic Guidance.

In July 1997, at least 20 members of an Assembly of God church in Shiraz were arrested, imprisoned, beaten, and interrogated. The pastor, Harmik Novroozian, and his wife, Shoushik, also were imprisoned and as of February had not been released. Their condition is unknown.

Iranian Christian sources say Armenian and Assyrian evangelical churches in Iran are allowed to stay open because their services are not conducted in the local language and



because they have agreed to forbid Muslims and Muslim converts from attending. There are only five other evangelical churches open; most have agreed not to evangelize Muslims.

Iranian Christians have called on believers in America to send messages to the Iranian government protesting its treatment of Muslim converts and evangelical Christians. Address letters to: Hojatoleslam val Moslemin Sayed Mohammad Khatami; The Presidency, Palestine Ave.; Azerbaijan Intersection; Tehran; The Islamic Republic of Iran.

Send faxes to: 011-98-674790 (via Foreign Affairs; request that the fax be forwarded the president).

## LeaderLife nominees requested

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Written nominations for the James T. Draper Jr., LeaderLife Awards for 1998 are being solicited until May 15 by the pastor-staff leadership department at the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, according to Don Mathis, department director.

The award, begun in 1997 to recognize models of excellence in leadership, is named in honor of the president of the Sunday School Board. Recipients are given an expense-paid trip to the National Conference for Church Leadership at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center or Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center and a collection of the latest in leadership books and publications produced by the board.

LeaderLife, launched in 1997, is a development process designed to enhance and improve the personal and professional leadership of pastors and staff persons. It encompasses LeaderCare, a strategy to provide a network of personal development help for pastors and staff, and LeaderSkill, an initiative focusing on four essential leadership functions of leading, administering, ministering and communicating.

Written nominations detailing qualifications for the LeaderLife Awards may be sent to Don Mathis, Sunday School Board, 127 Ninth Ave. N., Nashville, TN 37234-0158 or by e-mail to don.mathis@bssb.com.

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

Over 500 students and directors from 27 college campuses in the state gather at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian for the annual Baptist Student Union Leadership Training Conference. They also commission 58 students for summer missions.

### 25 years ago

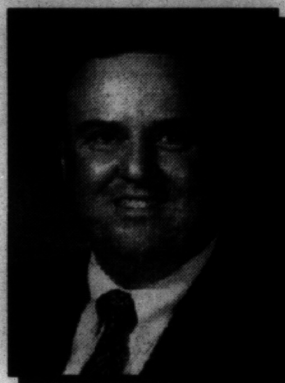
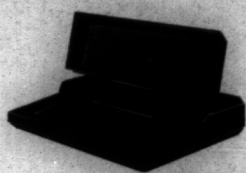
A plaque and a Bible are placed in the third floor prayer room of the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson by the WMU of First Church, Louisville. The presentation is made in honor of the late Mrs. Vernon May, who served as state WMU president.

### 50 years ago

George W. Sadler, secretary for Africa, Europe, and the near East for the Foreign Mission Board, recommends the Board establish a Baptist theological seminary of graduate level in Europe, probably at Geneva, Switzerland. The Board endorses the recommendation.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



**William H.  
Perkins Jr.**  
Editor

### EDITOR

William H. Perkins Jr.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
Carl M. White

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATE  
Florence Larrimore

CIRCULATION MANAGER  
Renee Walley

BOOKKEEPER  
Betty Anne Bailey

LAYOUT/DESIGN  
Joylin Davis

ADVERTISING/PROOFREADER  
Debbie Sills

EDITORS EMERITI  
Don McGregor  
Guy Henderson

### Baptist Record Advisory Committee:

Bettye Coward, Clinton;  
Vickie Ford, Olive Branch;  
Larry Garner, Jackson;  
Bill Hardin, Picayune;  
Gary Richardson, West Point;  
Ernest Sadler, Pascagoula;  
Debbie Sills, secretary.

Postmaster: Send changes of address  
to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box  
530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Send  
news, communication, and address  
changes to The Editor, BAPTIST  
RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS  
39205-0530 (601) 968-3800

VOLUME 122 NUMBER 12  
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4  
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist  
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,  
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$8.35 per  
year payable in advance. Economy plans  
available for cooperating Mississippi  
churches. Periodicals postage paid at  
Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State  
Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items —  
one calendar week prior to requested pub-  
lication date. Advertising — two calendar  
weeks prior to requested publication date.

# The Cooperative Program payoff

The young businessman was new to the ways of Baptists when he joined the local church and was baptized. He politely held his tongue through a full year of business sessions, but finally worked up the courage to ask a question that had stymied him for the past 12 months.

"Just when are we going to have this 'Cooperative Program' thing paid off?" he inquired.

Well, as most of us know — and the young businessman soon learned through observation and involvement — the Cooperative Program (CP) payoff isn't measured in dollars and cents or with a note-burning ceremony.

The CP payoff is changed lives, convicted new believers, stronger mature believers, and the programs to make those experiences become realities for Mississippi Baptists and Christians around the world.

Southern Baptists last Sunday celebrated CP Day, a special time set aside to recognize one of the most important means God has given us to accomplish the task plainly laid out for us by our Lord and Savior — to help bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

The CP acts as a huge reservoir that can be tapped to help Southern Baptists underwrite the work and ministries of over 9,000 missionaries here at home and around the world. It provides Christian higher education at the state level and seminary education at the national level.

The CP enables virtually every ministry undertaken by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, including:

- Mission work specifically aimed at bringing Mississippians to a saving knowledge of Christ.
- Church music programs too broad and numerous to list, all aimed at praising our Heavenly Father and touching lives through the remarkable gift of music.
- Standing-room-only youth events at Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian and

Camp Garaywa in Clinton, from whence so many of our future Mississippi Baptist leaders will emerge.

• Statewide Bible Drills that will anchor our young people in the Word of God for the rest of their lives.

• An entire department devoted to helping terminated pastors, their families, and church staffers in personal crisis.

• Brotherhood programs that build churches in Mississippi and around the world, and respond to human needs from Haiti to California.

• Baptist Children's Village, a place where "throw-away" children are loved and accepted in the name of Jesus.

That list doesn't begin to scratch the surface on the vast ocean of ministries accomplished under the CP banner. Even people who work full-time in CP are frequently surprised to discover yet another way CP is being used to bring people to Jesus.

If you want to know more about CP, talk with your pastor or write to David Michel, director of stewardship for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

If you choose to do so, be advised that there is no earthly explanation for why CP

"OKAY, NOW I'LL LISTEN TO YOU—  
EXACTLY WHAT IS YOUR NEW IDEA  
FOR INCREASING THE OFFERING?"



has become one of the most powerful tools for evangelism in all of Christendom. Only God could have made it what it is today, and you'll just have to leave it at that.

When will this "Cooperative Program" thing be paid off?

Not until our Savior returns — and it should be the hope and prayer of every Mississippi Baptist that when we encounter him once again (and we will), he will be able to hand us our bill marked, "Paid in full."

Is there a future for Baptists in the 21st century? My concern about the future of the Baptist worldwide movement centers on three basic areas:

### Leadership & Spirituality

We must produce leaders who are not only capable administrators, but — much more — spiritually rooted in the Biblical tradition and the call of Christ.

We must produce leaders who are not only concerned about preserving the past, the traditions, and the institutions, but who are also open to the movement of the Holy Spirit in the world.

We need to develop a new concept of mentoring in that Baptist pastors and leaders seek out young men and women and confront them with the challenges of ministry in the 21st century.

It is not sufficient for us to fill our seminaries with men and women who have had some type of warm, fuzzy spiritual experience, and then suddenly think they will be leaders.

Help us identify leaders who possess the potential of being spiritual giants for the next generation!

### Theological Tensions

During a time of social upheaval, it is normal that such upheaval also be experienced in the church. Various theological streams from a renewed fundamentalism to liberation theology have shaped our young people today.

We are in a theological conflict similar to the fundamentalist-modernist controversy of the 1920s. Will there be young Baptist theologians capable of showing us the way out, or will we continue to suffer conflict that ultimately hinders the Spirit and causes

atrophy in our seminaries and churches?

Pray that a return to a "radical reformation" will bring renewal to our dead and dying churches!

### Paradigm Shift

Author Peter Drucker indicated to a group of church leaders several years ago that some denominations will die in the 21st century and others will flourish. Those who die will be the ones that did not demand anything from their people, did not know what they

stood for, (and did not have) a clear identity.

The question for Baptists and our future denominational life is whether the British Baptist concept of a "union," or the U.S. concept of a "convention," is relevant ecclesiology (theological doctrine relating to the church) for today.

The present system has become very cumbersome and at times unresponsive to the life of the local churches.

On the other hand, local autonomy has so stymied concerted efforts that we often miss blessings or are not able to respond quickly enough to challenges around the corner or across the globe.

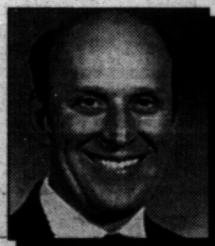
As we approach the 21st century, we need to be prepared to open ourselves up to a new movement of the Spirit in our day. We must be willing to make the necessary changes in structures and thoughts that are faithful to Scripture and the leading of God's people for our day.

Excerpted and edited from the January 1998 BWA News newsletter. For more information on BWA, contact the organization at 6733 Curran Street, McLean, Va. 22101-6005.

## GUEST OPINION:

### Baptists beyond 2000

By Denton Lotz, general secretary  
Baptist World Alliance





# Baptist leaders sign on to 'common ground' effort

ATLANTA, Ga. (ABP) — What impact will a recent declaration of cooperation have among Baptist leaders — many of whom have been at odds for the past two decades?

The short answer is: Nobody really knows. Many participants, however, view the effort as a hopeful step in establishing "common ground."

The declaration of cooperation, drafted by former President Jimmy Carter, was signed by more than two dozen prominent Baptists, including leaders from the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF), Baptist World Alliance, and American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.

Signers of the document ranged from SBC president Tom Elliff to CBF coordinator Daniel Vestal. Baptist Sunday School Board president Jimmy Draper, Baptist Joint Committee on

Public Affairs executive director James Dunn, and Baptist World Alliance general secretary Denton Lotz also were among those who participated in the dialogues and signed the agreement.

In signing the document, the Baptist leaders acknowledged "there are unresolved issues among us" but expressed a "wish to overcome differences that may impede our mission, which is to bring about a spiritual awakening in our nation and around the world."

The declaration specifically addresses the issues of racial reconciliation and religious persecution.

Participants pledged to "treat each other with mutual respect as brothers and sisters in Christ" and to "seek ways to cooperate to achieve common goals, without breaching our Baptist polity or theological integrity, in order that people may come to know Christ as Savior...."

"We weren't all in the same room at the same time," acknowledged Draper, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, but the process "sought to find some common ground in the struggle we've had the past 20 years" in Southern Baptist life.

"It was not a political document at all but a document among people affirming a shared belief in Jesus Christ and seeking some commonality," Draper pointed out. "I don't know what will come of it," he said, but added, "I don't think it will hurt and maybe it will help."

Vestal described the declaration as "a positive statement of Christian kindness, charity and cooperation."

While "we're still going to have areas of disagreement," Vestal said, a primary goal is for Baptist leaders to relate to one another "in a spirit of Christ and a spirit of love."

"It's an effort to find common ground to face the future not just among Southern Baptists but among all kinds of Baptists," he noted. "The Baptist family is much more complex and diverse than Southern Baptists."

Jim Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, said the dialogue process was a positive effort to "try to diminish putting our differences up for public discussion. We put it on a higher plane, and that's always good."

"It shows we have some common commitments we can all sign off on. I was glad to be part of a process that moves forward the kingdom of God."



## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

# Record

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

APRIL 23, 1998

VOL. 122

No. 12

# Causey to retire at end of September

By Tim Nicholas  
MBCB Communication Director

William W. "Bill" Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) since 1989, announced April 20 to the board's Executive Committee that he will retire at the end of September.

Causey's letter to Robert Upchurch of Tupelo, chairman of the Executive Committee, began, "All I presently know about God's will for my life, mixed with common sense, causes me to take this opportunity to inform you that, insofar as I can humanly determine it, the time has come when I must advise you of my intention to retire as of the end of September, 1998."

The Executive Committee accepted with regret the letter, read by Causey himself during the called meeting at the Baptist Building in Jackson.

The committee authorized Upchurch to appoint up to five persons to work with Causey and make recommendations concerning the details of his retirement and proper recognitions.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention's policy names the Executive Committee as the search committee for Causey's successor. Causey agreed to be available to aid his successor in orientation for such time as becomes necessary.

Causey will be 67 on May 7. In August, he will attain 50 years in the gospel ministry.

He came to the convention board from the pastorate of Parkway Church in Jackson, where he served for 26 years.

Earlier he was pastor of Hopewell Church, Harrodsburg, Ky. from 1952-55; assistant pastor of Parkway Church, Jackson, from 1955-57; and pastor of Poplar Springs Drive Church, Meridian, from 1957-63.

A native of Greenville, Causey is a graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton and earned the master of divinity degree from Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. in 1955.

He was awarded the honorary doctor of divinity degree from Mississippi College in 1968.

Causey has been married for 44 years to the former Charlotte Rose of Winona. They are the parents of three grown children.

As MBCB executive director-treasurer, Causey led the board's staff to adopt as a mission statement, "Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus," and to adopt priority concerns.

Those concerns, around which MBCB work revolves, include:

- ♦ to provide a gospel witness to all persons.
- ♦ to provide Bible study to all persons.
- ♦ to equip all Christians for service.

Causey is considered the leader in the Mississippi Baptist Convention plan to have the convention's institutions adopt a Covenant of Cooperation, and to have the institutions' trustees jointly nominated by the convention's Committee on Nominations and the institution's trustee board.

That action came in 1996 following the withdrawal and rejoining of Mississippi College with the convention, and proposed changes in the charter of the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center (now Mississippi Baptist Health Systems) in Jackson.

The plan brought the medical center, Mississippi College in Clinton, William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain, and the Baptist Children's Village in Jackson into a covenant agreement which is signed each year by all trustees of the institutions.

In that covenant, trustees agree to keep their institution "Christian in its purpose, solid in its business practices, compassionate in its ministry, and our judgments as near the mind of Christ as possible."

The covenant also exacts a promise to be attentive to the needs of the community, "individuals, congregations, associations, and particularly by the Mississippi Baptist Convention."

At the beginning of the Executive Committee meeting, Causey announced that the last of the five institutions, the medical center, has amended its charter to conform with the intentions of the convention's earlier vote.

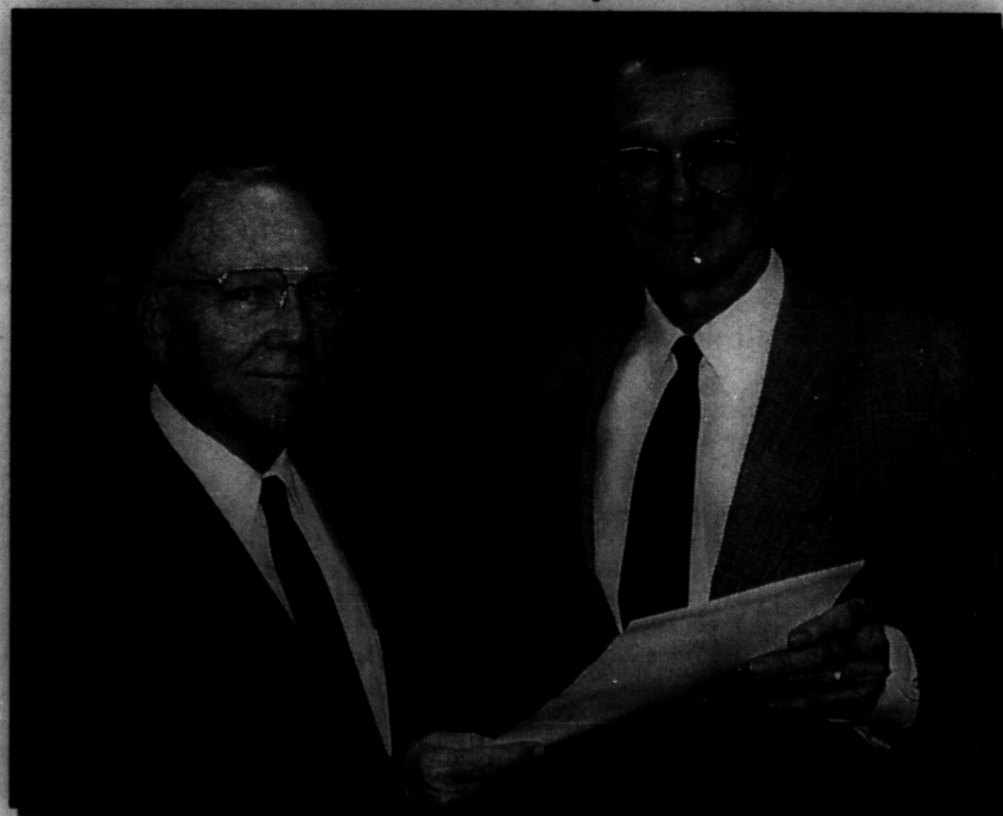
Causey also led the convention during two financial restructurings of William Carey College in Hattiesburg, and through the closure of Clarke College in Newton and the sale of the two-year college's property.

The Executive Committee indicated they will quickly begin the process of searching for Causey's replacement.

In other business, the Executive Committee approved the new position of ministry computer consultant, which will entail preparing and interpreting demographic studies for churches and associations; coordinating Internet communications; and training for computer-assisted presentations.

MBCB Business Administrator Barri A. Shirley reported that recently-completed work of the audit review committee turned up no red flags at convention-related agencies and institutions.

The Executive Committee also approved Phillip Doyle Caples, pastor of Thaxton Church, Pontotoc Association, to fill the unexpired board term of Dan Robertson, who recently resigned as pastor of West Heights Church, Pontotoc, in view of a call to pastor First Church, Natchez.



RETIREMENT SET — Bill Causey (left), executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), hands over the letter detailing his retirement plans to Robert Upchurch, chairman of the MBCB Executive Committee, after the April 20 called meeting of the Executive Committee during which Causey announced his intention to retire at the end of September. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



# Governor given 'True Love Waits' pledges

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

Mississippi leads the nation in teenage pledges of sexual abstinence, according to a report presented April 14 to Mississippi Governor Kirk Fordice by Wes Pegues, state coordinator for the True Love Waits (TLW) campaign.

Pegues, consultant in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was among a number of TLW supporters who handed the 1998 TLW Report on Sexual Abstinence to the governor.

The report indicates that a total of 8,531 Mississippi teenagers and college students have signed pledge cards indicating their commitment to sexual abstinence — more than any other state.

Second was Texas, with 8,239, followed by Georgia with 6,876, and Tennessee with 5,425.

TLW is an international campaign designed to challenge teenagers

and college students to remain sexually abstinent until marriage.

It was launched by the Baptist Sunday School Board in April of 1993 but quickly became an interdenominational movement.

"You are well aware of the personal and social cost of early sexual activity," Pegues said in the presentation to Fordice.

"Local, state, and national budgets are impacted by the consequences of teenage sexual activity.

"Teenagers choosing abstinence can significantly reduce the costs to society and the personal pain early sexual activity places upon

teenagers and their families," he said.

Pegues also presented information from the National



TLW GOES STATEWIDE — Wes Pegues (second from right), consultant in the MBCB Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, reads a statement while presenting the 1998 True Love Waits Report to Mississippi Governor Kirk Fordice (center) April 14 in the Governor's office at the State Capital in Jackson. Accompanying Pegues were (from left): Ben Derrick, Woodland Hills Church, Jackson; Joel Carter, minister of youth at Woodland Hills Church; Robin Mays, member of Woodland Hills Church; Fordice; Jim Richardson, youth minister at Christ United Methodist Church, Jackson; Pegues; and David Cook, youth minister at Christ United Methodist Church. (Photo by Carl M. White)



## Teens and sex in America: THE COLD FACTS

◆ Each year in the U.S., more than 1,000,000 teenagers become pregnant and more than 360,000 unmarried teenagers deliver babies.

◆ 50-52% of teenagers 16-19 have not had sexual intercourse; 70% of teenagers 15 years old have not had sexual intercourse; 77% of teenagers 14 years old have not had sexual intercourse; 84% of teenagers 13 years old have not had sexual intercourse

◆ 77% of unwed teenage mothers in the U.S. go on welfare within five years of delivery.

◆ In the 1960s there were only two or three common sexually transmitted diseases; today there are more than 20. Of the more than 12,000,000 new cases of sexually transmitted diseases in the U.S. each year, 65% occur among people 25 years of age and younger. This year approximately 3,000,000 teenagers will contract a sexually transmitted disease.

◆ 25% of all new HIV infections are found in people under the age of 22.

◆ More teenagers have chlamydia (a disease that can cause infertility) than any other age group; some studies indicate that as many as 30% of sexually active teenagers are infected with chlamydia.

◆ AIDS is the leading killer of Americans between the ages of 25 and 44; most were infected during their teenage years.

◆ Six of ten women who report having intercourse before the age of 15 say they were forced to do so. A large percentage of the sexual activity of teenage women is with men age 21 and older.

◆ Recent studies indicate . . .

Religious identity, pledge of virginity, grade point average, and appears "younger than most" are characteristics that protect teenagers from early sexually intercourse and pregnancy.

Same sex attraction, perceived risk of untimely death, paid work more than 19 hours a week, and appears "older than most" put teenagers at risk for early sexual intercourse and pregnancy.

Information compiled from reports by the Medical Institute for Sexual Health, U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and The Institute for Youth Development.

Longitudinal Study on Adolescent Health (Add Health) which indicates that adolescents who take a pledge to remain sexual abstinent until marriage were at a significantly lower risk of early age sexual debut.

According to the Add Health report statistics, there are 228,283 youth age 15-19 in Mississippi and as many as 29,600 may have made a commitment to sexual abstinence, Pegues said.

"We trust this information will be valuable to you for future reference as you continue your support of sexual abstinence before marriage," he added.

The ecumenical nature of the movement in Mississippi was indicated by the presence of David Cook and Jim Richardson, youth ministers at Christ United Methodist Church in Jackson, at the governor's TLW presentation.

Christ Church is one of the leading United Methodist churches in Mississippi. Fordice is also a United Methodist.

Also at the presentation were Joel Carter, youth minister at Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, and two teenagers from his church, Robin Mays, a junior at Woodland Hills Academy, and Ben Derrick, a senior at Jackson Academy.

The 1998 report will be presented in Washington, D.C. later this month.

National displays of commitment cards represent high-water marks of the campaign.

The First TLW National Celebration was conducted in July of 1994 on the National Mall in Washington, D. C., with 210,000 cards displayed and 25,000 youth participating.

In Atlanta, Georgia in Feb. of 1996, over 340,000 commitment cards were stacked to the roof of the Georgia Dome.



# SBC facilities take hit in Nashville tornado

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Building and Sunday School Board (SSB) complex were damaged by tornadoes which ravaged an estimated 300 buildings in downtown Nashville on April 17.

One SSB employee was reported injured after a tornado hit the Baptist facilities around 3:30 p.m. Thursday, forcing several hundred employees to take shelter in their respective buildings. A second tornado struck another part of the downtown area.

The Sunday School Board closed Friday, April 17, in response to emergency officials' pleas that offices in the debris-laden downtown close for safety reasons; the SBC Building across the street operated on limited staffing.

No loss of life was reported in the downtown area, which officials variously termed "miraculous" and "absolutely unbelievable."

An estimated 100 persons were injured, however. Across Tennessee, a half dozen deaths were reported as a result of the El Nino-powered storms.

At the SBC Building, which houses the Executive Committee, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, Seminary Extension and Historical Library & Archives, about 35 employees took shelter in the basement as the storms roared past.

More than 20 windows were damaged at the SBC Building. Only one window was broken completely through, however.

The storm left a sloping window above a fifth-floor Seminary Extension office with a gash about 18 inches long and six inches wide, posing a threat of water damage to the building if heavy rains hit before the pane can be fully repaired.

With the other double-paned windows, flying debris and wind, which reportedly hit 100 mph, shattered many of the outer panes.

At the Sunday School Board complex, preliminary estimates showed minor dam-



STORM'S AFTERMATH — David Carter, lead field service specialist in the Church Stewardship Services Department at the Sunday School Board, assesses damage in downtown Nashville through his ninth floor Sullivan Tower office window which was damaged just minutes earlier as the first of two tornadoes ripped through the city. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

age to each building, with broken and damaged windows, antennas down and two parking lot security booths destroyed.

On the parking lots, several cars of employees had windows blown out. One car was picked up and moved several feet.

None of the board's approximately 1,200

Nashville employees was injured during the storm.

Collene Hall of the corporate services department fell on a rain-slickened parking lot as she was assessing damage. She was transported to a hospital with a shoulder injury.

"Overall, we were greatly spared," Jim Shull, director of the corporate services department, said late Thursday night.

The SSB's Friday closure cut short the annual three-day spring revival by one day.

Jerry Vines, co-pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., was the preacher. In his Thursday message on the second coming of Christ, he had posed the question, "Are you ready?"

Numerous employees commented they had reflected on Vines' question through the events of the afternoon.

As the tornado approached downtown Nashville at approximately 3:30 p.m., several employees saw it coming before evacuating offices on the upper floors of SSB buildings and heading to the basements as transformers blew and the power went out throughout the facilities.

John Garner, director of the church recreation program, watched from an eighth-floor window as the funnel cloud approached from the west. "When I saw a building go a few blocks away, I decided it was time to head downstairs," he said.

At the nearby Baptist Book Store at 10th and Broadway, sales supervisor Becky Brooks said people in the store "could feel air pressure change in our ears" as the storm approached.

Assistant manager Dave McVay yelled for customers to go to the back of the store and away from the windows.

Moments later, a window blew, scattering glass to the middle of the store. No one was injured.

One hand of the clock in the Union Station tower, across the street from the bookstore, blew off and landed in the store where the window had blown out.

In the board's operations building, which houses distribution, duplicating, and postal services components, employees in windowless areas found their way out of the buildings by putting a hand on the shoulder of the person in front of them and walking together.

When power went out, a 30-minute back-up system activated in the information systems department where computer systems and servers are housed.

That enabled personnel to power down the systems normally to avoid major loss of information.

SSB President James T. Draper Jr. said Friday morning, "We're grateful to God that employees are safe and that we were spared major damage."

"After Mayor Bredesen and Gov. Don Sundquist asked that people stay away from downtown, we felt that closing the board was the right thing to do."

"We regret inconvenience caused to churches and others needing to contact us today. We are praying for those who have been injured and suffered other losses."

By Friday morning, power had been restored and damage assessments were continuing at the SBC facilities.

## SSB publishes new Christian school items

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has released the first of its resources for students and teachers in Christian schools.

Scheduled for release from April through early July are 11 new books, including "Kingdom Education: God's Plan for Educating Future Generations" by Glen Schultz, manager of the board's Christian school and home school section.

Resources for Christian schools may be ordered through the Sunday School Board's toll-free customer service number, 1-800-458-2772. Questions about Christian schools issues and materials may be addressed to Schultz at 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, TN 37234-0182.

## Miss. CBF holds Spring Gathering

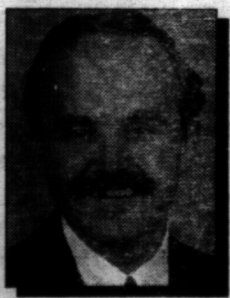
By Rebekah Ray  
Special to The Baptist Record

LOUISVILLE, Miss. — About 140 members of the Mississippi Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) were challenged to see visions and dream dreams at their April 4 Spring Gathering at Lake Tiak O'khata in Winston County.

"We need to become visionaries to do the things of God," said Larry M. Taylor, morning session speaker and pastor of Emmanuel Church, Alexandria, La. "Our God is one of imagination and vision. He wants us to be dreamers and visionaries. A new home like CBF is worth holding on to."

Program personnel included Taylor and Charles Poole, pastor of Northminster Church, Jackson. David Bishop, minister of music at First Church, Meridian, led congregational singing.

CBF missionary Rick Shaw spoke of his work with Albanians who have been dis-



Shaw

placed to Macedonia because of political turmoil in their homeland. He and his wife are one of three CBF missionary couples working with Albanians in Macedonia.

Taylor asked participants to continue their vision.

"Fear keeps us in line. Fundamentalism is more about control than a belief that an angry God is going to get us. Visionaries have been freed from that."

Visions and dreams will elude us as long as we live in fear. It makes a difference when God's people have a dream," he said.

Following a brief business session, the afternoon message was delivered by Poole.

"We need to measure our dreams against the cross of Jesus Christ. We need to be careful that the church doesn't take up the dreams of society," he stressed.

National CBF Coordinating Council member Jane Allison of Hattiesburg reminded attendees of the 1998 National CBF General Assembly at Astro Hall in Houston, Tex., on June 25-27. Speakers will include Richard Foster, Bill Lawson, Daniel Vestal, and Bill Hendricks, as well as 100 workshops on a variety of subjects.

For more information, contact Mississippi CBF at (601) 355-7824.



# BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS



Students at William Carey College receiving awards at the Lake Guntersville Guitar Competition held in Boaz, Ala., recently were Richard Neal, Gulfport; Todd DuBose, Laurel; and Marcus Lang, Hattiesburg.

William Carey College Drama Team "Ultimate Power Source" (UPS) is available for performances. Members of UPS are (back row, from left) Samantha Breland, Christina Crawford, Todd Cole, Kim Morris, and Ashley Fitzhugh, (middle row) Michelle Herrin, Jeannie Miller, Mandy Trammell, Shelly Nickles, (front row) Laela Syphurs, Linda Poore, Amy Cline. Eleven students of the drama team recently participated in the annual Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union State Convention held at First Church, Hattiesburg. For more information, call the Baptist Student Union at (601) 582-6161 or 582-6386.

William Carey College School of Music will present a series of concerts as part of its 1998 Summer Guitar Festival May 30-June 5 in the Smith Auditorium. The school of music will also sponsor a Summer Guitar Festival May 30-June 5 on campus. A pre-college guitar workshop will be held on the same days in the Thomas Fine Arts Building. For more information about the concerts and workshop, call the school of music at (601) 582-6175.



William Carey College's Puppet Team, "In the Master's Hands," is available for performances. Members of the team are (back row, from left) Angela Ray, Christina Crawford, Jeannie Miller, (front row) Michelle Herrin and Laela Syphurs. For more information, call (601) 582-6161 or 582-6386.

William Carey College campus students receiving awards in the Student Division of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Advertising Awards Competitions held recently were Ruben Channell Alvarez, Gulfport, and Marjorie Monde, Ocean Springs.

William Carey College summer baseball camps will be held in Hattiesburg during the month of June. Applications can be obtained by calling (601) 582-6610 or 582-6192, or by writing Coach Bobby Halford, William Carey College, 498 Tuscan Avenue Box 182, Hattiesburg MS 39401-5499.

Several William Carey College Coast campus students received awards at the 1998 Mississippi Collegiate Art Competition held recently in Jackson. Students receiving awards were Juan Carlos Hernandez Ortega, Mexico City, Mexico; Patrick Bodine, Long Beach; Nancy Plazo Couch, Moss Point; and Baba Scaturro, Biloxi. Other students whose work was selected for inclusion were Tim Waldrop, Biloxi; Marjorie Monde, Ocean Springs; Matt Steadman, Gautier; and Barbara Gwin, Gulfport.

Mississippi College (MC) Department of Music will present Tommy Creel and Janette Bock in a joint lecture-recital on April 26 at 2 p.m. in Provine Chapel. Creel and Bock will conduct the MC Chamber Choir with orchestra in selections from the "Requiem" of

John Rutter and Maurice Durufle. Creel is associate minister of music at Crossgates Church, Brandon. Bock is choral conductor and instructor at Wesley College in Florence, as well as church pianist at Lakeshore Congregational Methodist Church in Jackson.



William Carey College's Ensembles, "Undivided" and "On Solid Ground," are available for revivals, praise sing, and more. Members of "Undivided" are (back row, from left) Kyle Brady, Michael Springstead, Carlton Brady, Alan Flemming, Kevin Scarborough, (middle row) Angela Ray, Rita Wilson, Claire Thacker, (front row) Erin Dungey, Jennifer Donohoo Davis, and Stephanie Hanberry. For more information, call the Baptist Student Union at (601) 582-6161 or 582-6386.

The Office of Continuing Education at Mississippi College is offering a course to assist individuals who are preparing to take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). The course is scheduled to begin May 2 and conclude on May 26. Also, a course to assist students preparing to take the June

13th offering of the American College Testing Assessment (ACT) will be offered May 16, May 23, May 30, and June 6. This course will include individual sessions on Test Mechanics, Grammar, Math, and Science. For further information, please call (601) 925-3264.

## HOMEcomings

West Laurel, Laurel: May 17; 10 a.m.; noon meal in family life building; Wayne DuBose, Hoover, Ala., guest speaker; Mike Burt, Nashville, Tenn., music; fellowship on Saturday, May 16, at 6 p.m.; Cary Worthington, pastor.

Bond, Philadelphia: April 26; 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Terry Hall, morning message; lunch will be served; special music by the Reflections in afternoon.



Custom Church Interiors, Inc.

### PEWS

Pew Refinishing & Reupholstering  
Stain Glass • Carpet • Lights  
Painting • Baptisries • Steeples  
Complete Renovations

1-800-654-1294

# GLORIETA™

CONFERENCE CENTER

• Conferences • Family Vacations • Reunions  
• Meetings • Retreats

Information: 505-757-6161

Reservations: 1-800-797-4222

3/98

Stay with Family—  
stay at a Christian  
Conference Center!

'99  
Tours  
of a  
Lifetime  
Reserve  
now &  
\$ave

Wonders of the Ages  
ATHENS-  
HOLY LAND-  
EGYPT

Have a  
group?  
Go  
FREE

Feb. 15-25 with David Ray • \$1899

**JERUSALEM** • Upper Room • Mt. of Olives • Garden of Gethsemane  
• Calvary • Garden Tomb • Wailing Wall • Cheggall Windows  
• Dead Sea Scrolls • **BETHLEHEM** • **JERICHO** • **JORDAN RIVER**  
• **GALILEE** • **CAPERNAUM** • **MT. OF BEATTITUDES** • **CRUISE SEA OF GALILEE** • **NAZARETH** • **VALLEY OF MEGIDDO** • **CAESAREA**  
**EGYPT** • Great Pyramids • Memphis • Sakkara • Cairo • Sinai • Nile River • Grand Bazaar • Suez Canal • El Arish  
**GREECE** • Athens • Acropolis • Mars Hill • Presidential Palace

## TREASURES of TURKEY

April 6-16 with David Ray • \$1799

**HISTORICAL & MODERN TURKEY** • Footsteps of Apostle Paul  
• Churches of Revelation • Mediterranean • Alpine Region  
• Amazing Cappadocia • Ankara • Istanbul • Bosophrus Cruise

**ALREADY INCLUDED:** Most meals, deluxe hotels, complete sightseeing, admissions, experienced Tour Manager who has led groups to areas for 20 years, local Guides, admissions, luxury motorcoach, airfare from New York & more. Call TODAY for LOWEST price!

FREE Brochures & Details

THE TRAVEL CLUB - 362-0045  
1-800-841-8991

Jackson



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 23, 1998

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

## GOD HAS CALLED. WHAT NOW?

Every year a multitude of Christians experience it - that urging by the Holy Spirit to complete surrender to full-time ministry or to a new vocation. Perhaps, right now, you know of those in your family, church, Sunday School class, youth group, etc., who are dealing with how to answer God's call on their lives. How can you help them?

Give them a copy of **God's Call: The Cornerstone of Effective Ministry**, written by Neil Knierim and Yvonne Burrage. This insightful book, designed for individual or group study, explores what Scripture says about God's call and what that call means today.

Henry Blackaby, author of **Experiencing God**, states: "Here is a very practical biblically-based manual for those called of God and the churches who have the stewardship of their lives. This step-by-step guide is for the person asking, 'What do I do now? What is the next step in my response to God's call in my life?'"

Gene Mims, vice president of the Church Growth Group of the Baptist Sunday School Board, writes: "This is one of the most effective resources I have ever seen to steer persons who feel the Lord's leadership to full-time Christian ministry. I highly recommend it and urge you to use it."

To order your copy of **God's Call: The Cornerstone of Effective Ministry** (0767334671, \$6.95 plus shipping and handling), call toll free 1-800-458-2772. If you prefer, e-mail your order to [customerservice@bssb.com](mailto:customerservice@bssb.com) or fax to 615-241-5993, or simply visit your local Baptist Bookstore.

For more information on vocational guidance (finding God's will for your life and ministry), contact Matt Buckles, consultant in the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

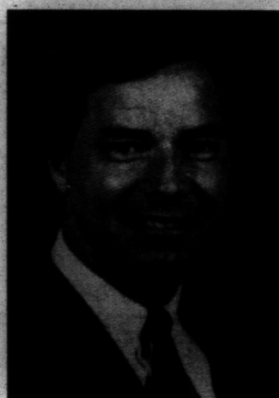
Note: The April 1998 issue of Church Administration magazine is dedicated to Calling Out the Called.

**LIFE COMMITMENT  
SUNDAY - APRIL 26**

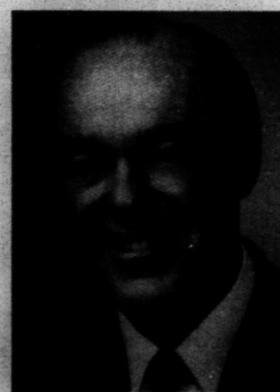


## MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE ON PREACHING AND WORSHIP *Crossgates Baptist Church, Brandon* May 11-12, 1998

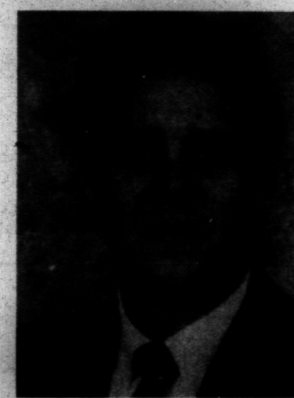
featuring



Argile Smith



Perry Sanders



Tony Higginbotham



Frank Lewis



Dot Pray



Chuck Pourciau

### Registration Form

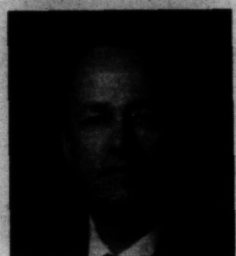
#### Mississippi Conference on Preaching and Worship

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Church Position \_\_\_\_\_  
Church Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Church Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Church Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Association Name \_\_\_\_\_

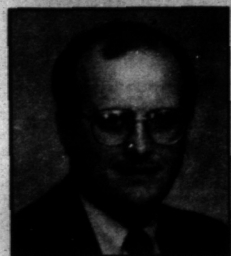
Mail to: Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Deadline is May 4 so that adequate materials can be provided.



# SMALLER MEMBERSHIP CHURCH Pastor's Conference



**Barry Campbell**  
Pastor - Staff  
Leadership Dept.  
Sunday School Board



**Matt Buckles**  
Church Administration  
Pastoral Ministries Dept.  
MBCB

**JUNE 5 & 6, 1998**  
Friendship Baptist Church,  
Pontotoc  
June 5th, 6:30 pm  
(supper provided 6:30 to 7 pm)  
June 6th, 8:00 - 12 noon  
(breakfast provided 8 to 8:30 am)

**AUGUST 29, 1998**  
Goodwater Baptist Church,  
Magee  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
(lunch provided)

*Small in  
numbers,  
but not  
small  
potatoes!*

## TOPICS

- Preaching
- Worship Planning
- Pastoral Skills
- Planning and Guiding
- Resources
- BIVO Ministers Track
- Strengths & Weaknesses
- "Surviving & Thriving"
- Outreach Strategies
- Developing Leaders

Please clip and return to: Matt Buckles, CAPM Dept., P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
CHURCH: \_\_\_\_\_ ASSOC.: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE (church/work): \_\_\_\_\_ (home): \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I will attend JUNE 5 - 6 in Pontotoc

☐ I will attend AUGUST 29 in Magee

"Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus"  
A Ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

## 1998 Growing Churches Conferences

### Growing Churches Through Bible Study July 23-25

Seminars on total church growth  
with an emphasis  
on Sunday School.



**Guest Speaker**  
Sam Cotter, director of  
Sunday School Dept.,  
Colorado Baptist  
Convention

**Guest Speaker**  
Rex Yancey,  
pastor of  
FBC, Pascagoula



### Growing Churches Through Discipleship July 30-Aug. 1

Seminars on total church growth  
with an emphasis on  
Discipleship and Family Ministry.

### Both Growing Churches conferences include:

Six Study Sessions Led by Specialists

Three Dynamic Worship Services

- Sam Cotter will be preaching during the Bible Study emphasis
- Rex Yancey will be preaching during the Discipleship emphasis
- Gordon Alford will be the worship leader & musician during the Discipleship emphasis

TeamKID Clubs for All Children

TeamKID Clubs for Older Preschoolers

Family Time on Friday Afternoons

Demonstration Lab School for Younger Preschoolers

Discipling Bible Study for Youth

For reservation information, contact Frank Simmons, manager, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly,  
100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571-3299  
Telephone: (228) 452-7261 Fax: (228) 452-7263

NOTE: Mastercard and Visa can be used for reservations and payment of bill.



# Will you pray about going to COLORADO? VENEZUELA? HONDURAS? MARYLAND? SURINAME?



VENEZUELA

There are needs for hundreds of Mississippians to serve the Lord outside the state this summer. Join with us to meet one of the following needs:

- Vacation Bible Schools
- Personal Evangelism
- Revival Teams
- Church Building Construction
- Leadership Training
- Medical/Dental Ministries
- And Many More!



SURINAME

## Interested?

Want to know how to involve your congregation? Please call the Partnership Missions office at 1-800-748-1651 or e-mail us at 71153.1226@compuserve.com. Let us help you experience the thrill of missions!



An evangelism project in Venezuela needs immediate response! Sixteen teams of 2 persons are needed August 21-31, 1998. You will be responsible for personal witnessing during the day and evangelistic services at night.



HONDURAS



# Pray this day for...

April 24-May 7, 1998

Prayer Ministry Office • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

"...My House Shall Be Called a House of Prayer..." - Matthew 21:13a  
 "When Christians commit to a ministry of prayer, their specific prayers can impact many lives." "Pray Without Ceasing" by Elaine H. Irvin, Missions Mosaic, May 1998.

Life Commitment Sunday (CAPM Emphasis). Taipei, Taiwan may be the most gospel-resistant Chinese megacity in the world. Ask the Lord to raise up intercessors to pray for the complete evangelization of Taipei.

26

Christian Home Week 3-10, (Discipleship and Family Ministry Emphasis). One thousand fix-tuned radios are being distributed in the Sudan. Pray for safety and the Lord's direction as they are given out.

3

Praise the Lord that Oklahoma defeated casinos by a 2-1 majority. Oklahomans want to build the state on sound moral principles and economics.

27

Missionaries report that the shortage of rainfall in West Africa is becoming critical. Countries which border the Sahara Desert are suffering greatly and bordering on crop failure. Other countries are without electricity because it is provided by hydropower. Pray that rains will come soon so famine won't result.

Senior Adult Choir Festival; FBC, Hattiesburg; sponsored by Church Music Department. For many, the only way to hear God's Word in Algeria is through radio broadcasts. Pray that the Holy Spirit will lead the listeners as they depend upon His teaching. Pray that more Bibles will be able to get into Algeria.

28

As the economic crisis in the Philippines worsens, Baptist representatives ministering there daily face people requesting financial help. Pray for wisdom to know how to respond to each need and how to help in more lasting ways.

5

Dr. Rebekah Naylor, who serves in India, has been given a residence permit that is valid only through June 30. Pray that negotiations with government officials to allow her continued residence and ministry in the country beyond that time will be successful.

29

Steve and Barbara James, who serve in London, recently held a Saturday evening "fun night" for a group of Kurdish youth. Pray for Steve and Barbara as they minister to these young people.

6

Senior Auld Choir Festival; Parkway BC, Clinton; sponsored by Church Music Department. Missionary Jan Hill's Japanese harp teacher in the Philippines often plays Christian music. Pray that the music will be used by God to bring him to faith in Christ.

30

Music Mississippi; Eagle Ridge Conference Center, Raymond; sponsored by Church Music Department. Pray for an evangelistic crusade being planned by the First Baptist Church of Turrialba. A team from Louisiana will be going to help with the crusade, which will be held June 6-8.

State Handbell Festival; Gulfshore Assembly; sponsored by Church Music Department. Please continue praying that 50 volunteer English teachers will commit to serving in China during the summer of 1998.

24

State Speakers Tournament; Alta Woods BC, Jackson; sponsored by Discipleship and Family Ministry. State Bible Drill Selection Tournament; Alta Woods BC, Jackson; sponsored by Discipleship and Family Ministry.

25

Chaplains Retreat, Gulfshore Assembly; sponsored by MEAA. Preschool/Children Leadership Festival, Trinity BC, Southaven; sponsored by Equipping Team. State Handbell Festival, Mississippi College; sponsored by Church Music Department.

1

Lad/Crusader Day, Central Hills Retreat; sponsored by the Brotherhood. Pray that the Lord will open a door of opportunity for His people to effectively share their faith with the 300,000 Malays who live in Singapore.

2

JUNE



3-86 MR. JOEL MARTIN  
 Casilla 2568, Santa Cruz, BOLIVIA  
 Parents: Tom & Cynthia, General Evangelism

3-86 MISS LAUREN MCCALL  
 P.O. Box 5864, Tanga, TANZANIA  
 Parents: Dennis & Margaret, Agriculture

13-84 MR. ROB DENT  
 International Board, 190 Middle Road, #18-01 Fortune Centre, SINGAPORE  
 Parents: Donald & Anne, Associate to the Area Coordinator

15-79 MR. JASON HENDRICKS  
 Apartado 1010-7050, Cartago, COSTA RICA  
 Parents: Larry & Mary, General Evangelism

18-83 MR. ROSS KYZAR  
 c/o UECB Russia, International Post Office, P.O. Box 171, Moscow, 101000 RUSSIA  
 Parents: Russell & Melinda, Literature & Distribution/Promo.

20-81 MISS DONNIS GREEN  
 Bolanos 141, 1407 Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA  
 Parents: Algie & Emily, General Evangelism

23-77 MR. MICHAEL PANTER  
 William Carey Campus, Box 554, 498 Tuscan Avenue, Hattiesburg, MS 39401  
 Parents: Danny & Elizabeth, Associate to the Area Coordinator, SERVE IN EASTERN EUROPE

26-89 MR. WRAY BRASWELL  
 Caixa Postal 61, 89.802-970 Chapeco, SC, BRAZIL  
 Parents: Larry & Alicia, General Evangelism

28-89 MISS CHARISSA FORTENBERRY  
 P.O. Box 228, Lobatse, BOTSWANA  
 Parents: Robert & Margaret

30-82 MR. KYLE MARTIN  
 Casilla 2568 Santa Cruz, BOLIVIA  
 Parents: Tom & Cynthia, General Evangelism

## 1998 SENIOR ADULT RETREATS GULFSHORE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY "EQUIPPING SENIORS FOR SERVICE"

May 19-22  
 (\$118 each)

May 25-27  
 (\$81.50 each)

May 28-30 (\$81.50 each)

Sponsored by the Discipleship & Family Ministry Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

### Registration Form Senior Adult Retreats

Mail along with a \$30 deposit per senior adult to:  
 Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street,  
 Pass Christian, MS 39571, or call 228-452-7261.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Church/Association \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Sr. Adult I \_\_\_\_\_ Sr. Adult II \_\_\_\_\_ Sr. Adult III

HOUSE TOPS



## REVIVAL DATES

**Farmhaven, Canton:** April 24-26; Fri.-Sat., 7 p.m.; fellowship meal following Sat. service; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.; covered dish lunch following morning service; J Garland McKee, Clinton, evangelist; Grady Morgan, Canton, music; June McKee, pianist; Charles Gentry, pastor.

**First, Columbia:** April 26-29; noon services, 12:30-1 p.m.; lunch served 11:45-12:30 p.m.; evening services, 6:30 p.m.; supper served 5-6 p.m.; Wayne Ward, Louisville, Ky., evangelist; Wayne Van Horn, pastor.

**Lake Washington First, Glen Allan:** April 26-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Rip Noble, Greenville, evangelist; Gerald and Cindy Simmons, Long Beach, music; Jimmy McLendon, pastor.

**Whitesand, Prentiss:** April 26-29; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 10 a.m. and 7

p.m.; Philip Duncan, Columbia, speaker; Bob Thames, Seminary, music; George Gerald Aultman, interim pastor.

**First, Stonewall:** April 22-26; weekday services, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Sat., preaching conference, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; David

Nelson, Little Rock, evangelist; C. C. Burns, Enterprise, music; Mike Powell, pastor.

**Richmond, Tupelo:** April 26-29; 7 p.m. nightly; Andy Russell of Endville Church, Belden, evangelist; Wade Murphy of First Church, Plantersville, music; Sean Tutor Sr., pastor.

**Parkway, Clinton:** May 3-6; senior revival; Sunday, 8:45 a.m./10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon., 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Tuesday, morning at Roosevelt Park (annual picnic) and 6 p.m. at church; Wed., 10 a.m., covered dish lunch, and 6 p.m.; Bob Norman, Franklin, Tenn., evangelist; J. M. Wood, Jackson, music.

## STAFF CHANGES

**Chris Dufrene** has been called to **First Church, Laurel**, as minister to students. His former place of service was Meadowood Church, Amory. Dufrene is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary.

**Bethel Church, Columbus**, has called **Walter Butler** of Houston as pastor effective March 16. Butler received his education at Blue Mountain College. His previous place of service was Amitv Church.

**First Church, Foxworth**, has called **Hanan M. Browning** of Tillman, Ala., as youth director. He is a religion major and pitcher for the baseball team at William Carey College in Hattiesburg, where he currently serves as worship leader for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

**Charles B. (Benny) Still** is now pastor of First Church, Grand Bay, Ala. Still previously served at Poplar Springs Church, Mendenhall.

**Friendship Church, Beeson**, has called **Joey**

**Beeson** as minister of youth effective April 8. A native of Brookhaven and graduate of Mississippi State University, Beeson is presently enrolled at New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was First Church, Calhoun City, and interim minister of youth at Friendship Church. LaVerne Summerlin is pastor.



Beeson

## SWBTS music dean McKinney dies

**FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)** — James McKinney, dean emeritus of Southwestern Seminary's school of church music and distinguished professor of voice, died from cancer-related complications at his Fort Worth, Texas, home April 12. He was 77. McKinney taught at Southwestern 44 years and was dean of the school of church music 37 years, serving at the seminary from 1950-94. He also performed as a soloist in numerous recitals, oratorios and church concerts nationally and internationally.

B E E S O N D I V I N I T Y S C H O O L

# Truth that is heart-deep

*from pastors who can preach*

**R**alph Waldo Beeson, the founding benefactor of our school, was a man of few words. On one occasion he summed up his idea of the kind of students we are seeking to prepare for the service of the church. "They ought to be," he said, "pastors who can preach." At Beeson, we believe that the recovery of preaching is essential to the renewal of the church. What does the preacher have to say that the psychologist, politician, stock broker, or social commentator has not already said?

**THE MAIN PART.** The answer is with a preacher in whom the Word of God burns as a fire in the bones, one who preaches with fierce humility, yet also with unstinted audacity. In the tradition of the Reformation, preaching stands as the central sacramental moment of worship. As Luther put it, "The preaching and teaching of God's Word is the main part of all divine service."

**HE MUST INCREASE.** In my office there hangs over my desk a famous painting by Matthias Grünewald. It is a depiction of the crucifixion with the hands of Jesus reaching into the dark sky. At his side stands John the Baptist with an open Bible in one hand while, with the other, he points with his long, bony finger to the figure of Christ on the cross. Barely visible in Latin are these words, "He must increase,

but I must decrease." This is the task of all true evangelical preaching. We say, "Don't believe in me, believe in Him; don't follow me, follow Him; I am not the way; He is the way, the truth, and the life."

**SERVANT SHEPHERDS.** There is a big difference between "pastors who can preach" and preachers who may also be pastors. A pastor who can preach is not a philosopher dispensing wisdom, nor a lawyer arguing a case, nor a general barking orders. A pastor is a shepherd, a servant leader, a fellow pilgrim who, like the prophet Ezekiel, walks alongside and sits down together with those to whom he has been sent to preach. Such



Timothy George

preachers will speak the truth in love "dipping and seasoning all our words and sentences in our hearts before they come into our mouths...so that our auditors may plainly perceive that every word is heart-deep"—George Herbert. To hear such a preacher is not merely to be inspired, challenged, or motivated. It is an occasion for divine epiphany.

*Soli Deo Gloria!*

*Timothy George*

Dean



SAMFORD UNIVERSITY  
Birmingham, Alabama

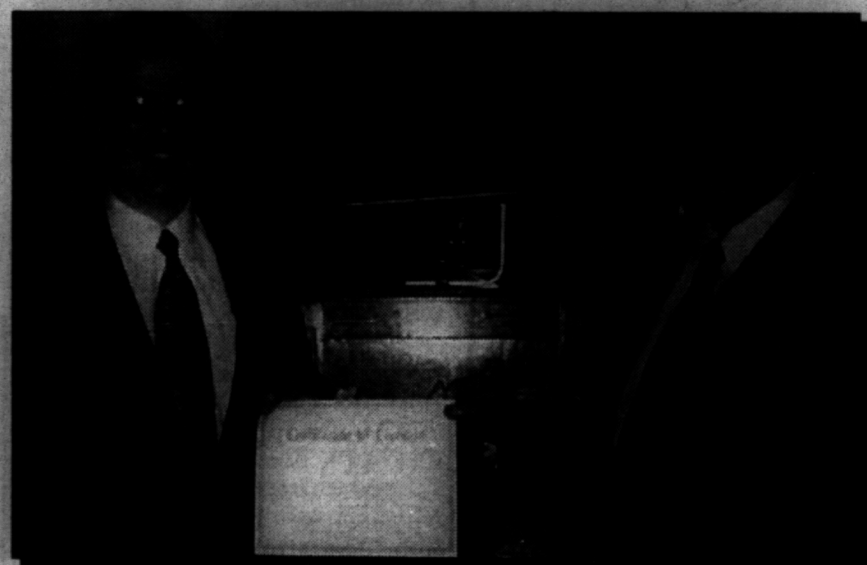
FOR INFORMATION ABOUT BEESON DIVINITY SCHOOL CALL 1-800-888-8266.

Beeson is affiliated with the National Association of Evangelicals and is accredited by The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada. Samford University is an Equal Opportunity Institution and welcomes applications for employment and educational programs from all individuals regardless of race, color, sex, disability, or national or ethnic origin.

## NAMES IN THE NEWS

**Mary Frank Kirkpatrick**, 72, died April 15. Funeral services were held April 17 at Noxapater Church, Noxapater. Kirkpatrick served as a foreign missionary for 25 years, taught school at Holly Bluff, and kindergarten teacher at Noxapater Church. Survivors include

two sisters, Annette Early, Quitman, and Dorothy Bakewell, Sunnyvale, Calif. Memorials may be given to: Training for Liberian or Nigerian students in seminary to the West African office of the International Mission Board, P. O. Box 67667, Richmond, VA 23230.



**Jim Burns** was licensed to the ministry on March 8 by Ludlow Church. He is a graduate of Mississippi State. Formerly of Jackson, he is now employed by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi. Pictured with Burns (right) is M. L. Wallace, pastor.

## CHURCH BUSES

#1 MANUFACTURER  
COMPETITIVE PRICING

SOUTHEASTERN BUS CO.

CLINTON, MS

1-800-423-9826

1-601-924-1982

ALL SIZES  
SALES AND RENTALS





## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

## JUBILEE PLANNED

Editor:

Gentilly Baptist Church in New Orleans is seeking to contact former members regarding the Jubilee Celebration of its 75th anniversary.

If you are interested in receiving information about this upcoming event Oct. 10-11, 1998, please send your name and mailing address to Gentilly Baptist Church at 5139 Franklin Ave., New Orleans, LA 70126. Telephone: (504) 6467.

Pam Cole  
New Orleans, La.

## TEST MOVEMENTS

Editor:

I commend your editorial titled "The Place for Spiritual Reconciliation," in the March 12 edition concerning the controversial Promise Keepers (PK) movement.

A good Bible test for any group making an appearance on the horizon is found in I John 4:1:

*"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."*

The only objective standard for determining truth is that any movement must be backed by the Word of God.

One should study (PK) literature and also the speeches given at the rallies, what is taught in the small group time at the rally, and the background of the leaders.

Then, a proper decision can be made concerning PK.

God has ordained his church to be the instrument for building up his people in the way of true godliness and the textbook is the Bible.

Just think about it: we have his Word and his church! Our problem is lack of commitment.

Baptists have had an organized group in the local church for many years for men.

Why should we join a group of men outside the local church? Why not just get busy and commit ourselves to what we have?

After reading the article, "Brotherhood leader asks support of PK Rally, in the Sept. 11, 1997 edition concerning the Oct. 4 PK national prayer rally, I suggest that the director of the Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood Department make a more thorough study of PK.

Jim Burke  
Waynesboro

## MS Positions Available

**DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS:** Carroll-Montgomery Baptist Association is searching for a full-time Director of Missions. Resumes will be accepted through May 7, 1998. Please send your resume to Joint Administrative Committee, PO Box 461, Winona, MS 38967.

**YOUTH & EDUCATION MINISTER:** First Baptist Church of Fannin is searching to fill this full time position. A great opportunity near the reservoir. Send resumes to Search Committee, FBC of

Fannin, 101 Church Rd., Brandon, MS 39042.

**HOLCOMB BAPTIST CHURCH (GRENADA)** is seeking a full-time Minister of Music and Youth. Send resumes to 109 Highway 35, Holcomb, MS 38940.

**MEADOW GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH,** Brandon, is looking for a part-time Children's Minister. Please send resume to PO Box 794, Brandon, MS 39043. For further information call the church office: 601-825-5704.

## JUST FOR THE RECORD

**Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth,** will host "Judgement House '98 - A Drug Deal Gone Bad," featuring teenagers confronting contemporary issues, on April 24-26 and May 1-3, beginning each evening at dark. No reservations required.

For more information, call (601) 287-2864 or (601) 287-2764.

**The International Family Rally** was held on April 4 at Woodland Hills Church, Jackson. There were 40 present from 12 churches that repre-

sented 11 counties. The conferences consisted of Reaching Moslems in the U.S., Friendship Ministries, and Children of Internationals. The next rally will be June 5-6, 1999, at First Church, Starkville, with an International Family Festival.



**Country Woods Church, Jackson,** has called Kathy Rankin and Lisa Smith as children's and preschool directors. Rankin and Smith have started a children's church service at the church (pictured above).

## 'CALVARY CARE' STARTED

Editor:

I would like to let your readers know about a wonderful program that has recently begun.

It is a daycare program for mentally handicapped adults called "Calvary Care" that meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at Calvary Baptist Church, 1300 West Capitol Street, Jackson.

We have singing, games and feature a different craft project at each meeting. We go on outings and we even had a magician visit us recently.

Our members do not sit and watch television all day. We have a program that keeps them involved and entertained.

We have many wonderful things planned for our future programs and, if you feel this is something that could benefit one of your loved ones, we would love to have them join us.

Our morning begins at 9 a.m. and we end our day at 3 p.m. The cost is only \$10 per day. The church provides our lunch on the first Tuesday of the month for an additional \$2.50, and on the third Tuesday, everyone brings their lunch.

If anyone is interested and would like additional information, you can call our director, Ruby Bryant at 956-1160, Joan Brown at 956-2846 or Virginia Adams at 372-5614. Mrs.

Adams can also be reached by e-mail at Vallisona@aol.com.

Virginia A. Adams  
Jackson



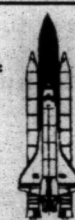
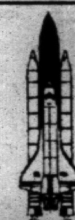
## ATTENTION VBS DIRECTORS

**\*\* Lee Pitts with "Nicky" and Crew \*\***

*Blast-Off on their '98 VBS "Missions"*

Tour to tell Boys and Girls everywhere about

**\*\*\* Captain Jesus \*\*\***



to inquire about a **shuttle** to your church

**Call 334-660-7628 Now**

**to schedule!! The Countdown is ON!!**

Lee Pitts Ministries is a full time vocational Southern Baptist evangelical ministry for the past 17 yrs. Lee and her family are members of Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, AL.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

RATE: 50 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads. Only written ads accepted.

**SALT LAKE SBC CONVENTION ARRANGEMENTS:** Airfares: Jackson-SLC: Sunday - Thursday:

\$315. Hotel packages, car rentals, BUS TOURS: Yellowstone/Jackson Hole or Grand Canyon: \$329. Salt Lake Sightseeing tours. CHRISTIAN TRAVELERS 1-800-972-8952.

**POSITION AVAILABLE:** Full Time Minister of Youth (Grades 7-12) Calvary Baptist Church of Tuscaloosa, Alabama is located adjacent to the University of Alabama campus. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve in a growing multi-staff church. Youth Sunday School enrollment currently is 160. Average SS attendance 800+. Average worship attendance 1,200. Please send information to: Calvary Baptist Church, 1121 Paul Bryant Drive, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401. (205) 758-0495.

**CFI — PEWS, NEW & used.** Baptistries, steeples, & stained glass, MS & ALA. 1-800-830-0583.

**DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT —** Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes.

Two year position, possible permanent status. Send resume by May 15 to: TBAH, PO Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.

**PASSENGER VANS FOR** private and church groups. From \$59.95 per day/ limited free miles/7 to 15-seat. Occasionally for sale: quality used vans. Auto & Truck Rental, Jackson (601) 948-3391. Since 1965.

**YOUTH OUTINGS?** Paintball games! Other functions! Curry Creek Outdoors. (601) 722-9000.

**GLORIETA CONFERENCE CENTER.** Stay with family; spring, summer, fall, or winter. Call, 1-800-797-4222 to make reservations or for information.

**PARADISE LANES:** Mississippi's only smoke and alcohol free Bowling Center. Call about Lock-in, group rates, fund raisers, and leagues. Located at 820 Cooper Road, Jackson, MS (601) 372-7700.

**SBC ROOMS DOWNTOWN SALT LAKE.** Quality Inn City Center 5 blocks from convention center. \$89 plus tax nightly. Contact Phil at MCTS. (601) 835-0467.

**CHOIR ROBES & accessories,** pulpit/ judicial robes, paraments. MURPHY ROBES/Mac's Robes, Charles McGlocklin, Authorized Dealer. Statewide 1-800-898-MACS.

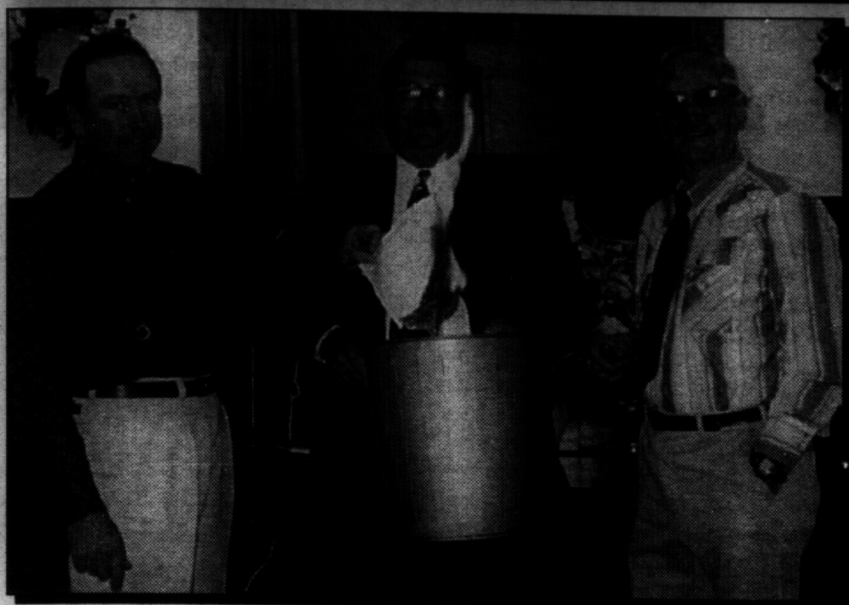
**HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS,** Meridian. Design, Fabrication, Repair. Fax illustrations to (601) 483-7958 or call 1-800-368-2705.

**CALL KELLER'S COUNTRY DORM RESORT** in Eureka Springs, Arkansas for the best (\$15.25) seats at THE GREAT PASSION PLAY, plus economical group lodging, recreation, supper and breakfast, all for JUST \$34.95 EACH. (501) 253-8418.

**BIBLE TUTORING SOFTWARE™.** Learn the books of the Bible. FREE download for new testament <http://www.biblebasics.com>.



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



**West Union Church, Carriere**, held a note burning service which made the church debt free on March 15. The loan was paid off 61/2 years early. Pictured (from left) are Tommy Anderson, deacon; Billy Dowdy, pastor; and Richard Johnson, deacon.

**Renew Your Worship**, a one-day leadership training workshop, will be held May 4 at New Orleans Seminary. Sponsored by the Institute for Worship Studies, this informative and inspirational workshop features a "how-to" approach to blending historic and contemporary worship. Robert Webber, instructor, is professor of theology at Wheaton College and affiliate professor of worship at Northern Seminary in Lombard, Ill. For more information or to register by phone call (630) 510-8905; or write Renew Your Worship!, Box 894, Wheaton, IL 60187.

**Mashulaville Church, Macon**, will hold memorial services at 11 a.m. on May 3. Terrell Mayo will be the speaker.

**New Life Fellowship Church, Jackson**, will host a reception at 3 p.m. on April 26 in honor of the pastor Charles A. Thurman's sixth anniversary at the church. Speaker will be Leon Bell.



**Royal Ambassadors of East End Church, Columbus**, collected 10,000 pennies to purchase a goat for the Venezuela Agri-missions Project, a part of the ongoing Mississippi/Venezuela Partnership Mission Project. David England is RA director; Gerald W. Haley is pastor.

**The Providence Players Keyboard Ensemble**, a newly formed student performing ensemble from New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS), will present a concert at 7:30 p.m., on May 5. The concert will be held in the Hardin Student

Center (Baptist Book Store building) at 3939 Gentilly Boulevard. The ensemble is under the direction of Michael Sharp, assistant professor of music theory and piano at NOBTS. For more information, call (504) 282-4455, ext. 3226.



**Poplar Springs Drive Church, Meridian**, will celebrate its 115th anniversary on

April 26. David Q. Byrd, former pastor, will speak and Graham Smith, director of the Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board will lead the music. Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m. and worship at 10:45 a.m. A covered dish lunch will follow the morning service. James Ruffin is pastor.

**An Awaken America rally** will take place at Grenada High School in Grenada, beginning at 7 p.m. on April 27. The rally will feature Ronnie W. Floyd, pastor of First Church in Springdale, Ark., along with inspirational worship led by Mississippian Buster Pray, First Church's associate pastor of worship ministries, and the First Church worship team. Emmanuel Church, Grenada, is sponsoring the event; Clarence Cooper is pastor.

**First Church, Tupelo**, will host Kirk Talley and J. Larry Goddard in a concert of gospel music, April 30, at 7 p.m. For ticket information call (601) 842-4217 or 680-3360.

**Right to Life of Jackson** will conduct the annual Mother's Day Walk for Life on May 2. The walk will begin at 9 a.m. in the parking lot of St. Richard's Church in Jackson and end at the abortion clinic on State Street, where a prayer service will be held. For more information, call (601) 956-8636.

**Red Banks Church, Marshall Association**, held a ground breaking ceremony on March 22 for its new 300 seat auditorium. Pictured (from left) are Lem Rappa, Jamie Rappa, Mark Watkins, Robert Mayer (chairman), Charles Tiner, James Rhea, Roy Billions, Frank Dawkins, Troy Defer (pastor), and Charles Givens (engineer with Griffin Steel Builders).

Did someone say,  
"Mountain Top  
Experience?"

**GLORIETA™**  
CONFERENCE CENTER

Come join us this  
summer at Glorieta for  
a Summer Conference  
and Have a Mountain  
Top Experience!  
Call, 1-800-797-4222  
for reservations



### A SPECIAL EDUCATION RETREAT

STARQUEST: A GALACTIC  
GOOD NEWS ADVENTURE

May 8-9  
Camp Garaywa, Clinton

THE RETREAT IS FOR PEOPLE 12 YEARS OF AGE, THEIR PARENTS,  
TEACHERS, FRIENDS, AND PASTORS/MINISTERS.  
REGISTRATION BEGINS 3 P.M. FRI AND CONCLUDES 1 P.M. SAT.

COST: \$25 PER PERSON

PRE-REGISTRATION FEE OF \$5 IS DUE MAY 4 AT THE BAPTIST  
BUILDING ALONG WITH A LIST OF PEOPLE ATTENDING. THE  
BALANCE OF \$20 IS DUE ON FRI, MAY 8.

One adult counselor for every five campers  
of the same sex is required.

For more information, contact:  
Larry Salter, MBCB  
PO Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205  
601-968-3800  
or toll-free outside Jackson  
1-800-748-1651

Marci Campbell  
Conference Leader



### CHURCH PEWS & FURNITURE CO.



★ Cushions ★ Baptistries  
★ Steeples ★ Renovation  
★ Pews and Pulpit  
Furniture  
(New and Used)  
Wallace E. Foy

WATTS 1-800-898-0551  
Jackson 957-3762

Are your seniors tired of  
crawling over the  
HUMP? The solution is a  
15-passenger van with an  
aisle, raised roof &  
electric step.  
Call Tri-State Van & Bus Today! 1-800-330-3622  
BUSES! VANS! PEOPLE MOVERS!



# Mississippian at center of network effort

By Wally Poor  
IMB Americas Correspondent

**GUATEMALA CITY,** Guatemala — Jason Carlisle played a major role in networking Latin American Baptists with missionary needs in World A at the recently concluded Congress of Latin American Baptists.

In addition to leading a workshop each day on missions and evangelism, the International Mission Board (IMB) missionary worked with IMB strategy coordinators in presenting personnel needs in countries where people have little or no access to the Gospel.

These countries are known by mission strategists as World A, the Last Frontier or the 10-40 Window.

Jason, an IMB missionary in Uruguay, has spent his furloughs in Mississippi and was coordinator for volunteers for the Mississippi Baptist Convention when Mississippi had a partnership project with Uruguay.

Both Jason and his wife, Susan are graduates of Baptist-affiliated William Carey College in Hattiesburg. Susan is from Jackson.

At the present time, Jason is Missionary in Residence at the Global Research Department at IMB headquarters in Richmond, Va.

A growing number of Latin American Baptist conventions are sending out international missionaries.

A Mexican medical missionary now serves in Yemen.

Argentina has a missionary in Mongolia and there are many Brazilian Baptist missionaries around the world.

The Latin Americans have a special affinity for the Arab world since the Iberian peninsula (Spain and Portugal) was occupied by the Moors of North Africa for 700 years. Many words in Spanish come from Arabic.

In addition, Latin American missionaries can often obtain entrance to countries where North Americans are not welcome.

In Uruguay, Jason was one of the moving spirits in establishing World Challenge, the Uruguay Baptist Convention's International Mission Board.

Jorge and Cristina Barrios, Uruguay Baptist missionaries to Bolivia, came out of one of the churches Jason organized in Uruguay.

Uruguayan Baptists also have missionaries in Crete and are about to send a missionary to India.

Jason grew up in Uruguay, where his parents were Southern Baptist missionaries. He was appointed in 1976.



**MAKING MUSIC** — Jason Carlisle (second from left) prepares to sing with choir members at Gethsemane Church in San Pedro la Laguna, Uruguay. (IMB special photo)

## Christian musicians team up to promote True Love Waits

**NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)** — What does the True Love Waits (TLW) sexual purity campaign have in common with contemporary Christian music? Plenty — especially for Christian recording artists Clay Crosse and Jaci Velasquez.

Crosse and Velasquez currently are on an 80-city concert tour. Both artists are past recipients of the Dove Award for new artist of the year — Crosse in 1995 and Velasquez in 1997.

During April's annual Dove Awards, Velasquez is being nominated for female vocalist of the year. Her hit song, "On My Knees," has been nominated for song of the year as has Crosse's recording of "He Walked a Mile."

Suffice it to say that both artists have rapidly growing lists of credentials in the world of contemporary Christian music. What about the True Love Waits connections?

TLW was first introduced in 1993 by the Baptist Sunday School Board as a campaign to encourage teens to remain sexually abstinent until marriage. During the past five years, thousands of youth have signed TLW pledge cards as the concept has crossed both denominational and international lines.

During their current "Stained Glass Tour" — named after Crosse's third album — True Love Waits is one of the sponsors of the concert tour. Velasquez, an 18-year-old single performer, has even written and recorded the song, "I Promise," as a commitment to sexual purity.

"I have made a commitment

to keep myself pure until the day I am married," Velasquez said. "I know that God has someone set aside for each and every one of us. We need to be patient and trust him. I hope and pray that every single person will make this commitment."

Crosse, who is married and has two young children, said he can share with young people from his past experiences that he and his wife made the commitment to save sex for marriage.

Affirming TLW as "a very worthy cause," Crosse pointed out that a lack of sexual purity "can lead to callous attitudes and beliefs in other areas. Hopefully, True Love Waits goes beyond one sexual commitment. It's an important issue that affects so many areas of life."

Although many young people already have made wrong choices in this area, Crosse noted the TLW pledge "says I will wait from this day until I get married. It doesn't talk about the past. We should look at our lives as a continual learning experience."

"I know it's not very easy and it's not the popular way," Velasquez acknowledged. Insisting, however, that sexual purity "is of the things God honors," she added, "This is the way he planned it and that is what we need to remember."

Noting "people are looking for hope and inspiration," Velasquez said, "That's what Christian music is about — it's about bringing people to know God. Even when you're having the worst day in the world, you can go before him and he is always there."

## T.R. Tutor dies April 14

Retired pastor Thomas R. "Tommie" Tutor, 66, of Pontotoc died in his garden April 14 of an apparent heart attack.

Services were held April 16 at West Heights Church, Pontotoc, with burial in Baldwin Memorial Gardens in Pontotoc.

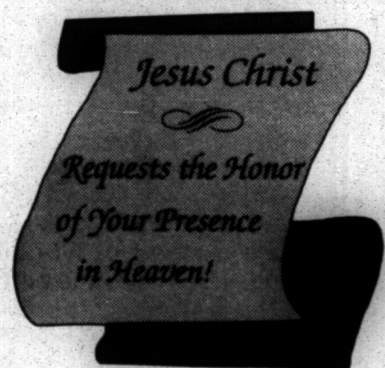
Tutor retired in 1995 from the pastorate of Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale, where he served for 12 years. Previous pastorates included Mount Lebanon Church in Covington, Tenn.; Rehoboth Church in Arlington, Texas; Rugby Hills Church in Memphis; First Church in Holly

Springs; and First Church in Benton, Ark.

He was also active in the Mississippi Baptist Convention, serving on a number of committees including chairman of "The Baptist Record" Advisory Committee.

A native of Pontotoc, Tutor received a bachelor of arts degree from Union University in Jackson, Tenn.; a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth; and a doctor of ministry degree from New Orleans Seminary in New Orleans.

Survivors include: wife, Tiny Rose of Pontotoc; daughter Paulette Webb of Fulton; brother T.W. Tutor of Pontotoc; sisters Mogrette Gillespie of Pontotoc, Janice Rodgers of Pontotoc; Rachel Stuart of Conway, Ark.; and Pat Huey of Gaston, Ala.; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



### YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. *(I have sinned.)*
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



## LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

Who makes up these dumb rules about Christian conduct? How are we supposed to have any fun? DUH!

Rules may not be "fun," but can you imagine a world without rules? There would be chaos. Recall in the story of Pinocchio when he and the other boys thought they were having so much "fun" in Never Land — smoking cigars, playing pool, and doing whatever they pleased. Their rules-free lifestyle ended when they were transformed into jackasses and

sent to a life of slavery. Although that movie is several decades old, the Never Land scene contains a powerful lesson for us today: a "fun" life centered on individual whims and personal irresponsibility will ultimately lead to our destruction. Your question therefore comes down to how to have "fun" and stay within the rules. Jesus said, "...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10 NIV). Keep Jesus at the center of your life, and you'll have more "fun" than you can imagine!

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### A missionary church

Acts 11:19-26, 13:1-3

By Harold W. Simmons

The church at Antioch may have held special interest for Dr. Luke, the writer of Acts. Some scholars believe that Luke was from the city of Antioch, which was one of the largest cities of the empire. It is entirely possible that the church at Antioch was Luke's home church. Of this we can be sure, the Antiochian church was unique in early church history.

**Witnessing to all kinds of people (11:19-21).** The believers who were scattered by persecution were unintentional missionaries. They had moved into other places to live and to

witness not because they felt the call of God, but because of the persecution.

Notice that the believers from the Jerusalem area witnessed only to the Jews. Believers from Cyprus and Cyrene began a ministry to Greeks (Gentiles) in Antioch. God's blessing was evident because the ministry was very effective among the Greeks. The number was large enough to attract the attention of the Jerusalem church leadership.

**Encouraging new believers (11:22-23).** When the Jerusalem church heard about what happened in Antioch, they sent



Simmons

Barnabus to Antioch. Some believe the primary mission was investigative and thereby have made an assumption, because Barnabus' exact mission was not recorded in Acts. He saw God at work in the lives of people and became excited about what God let him see.

Barnabus began to teach and develop the new Christians. Notice that it didn't seem to make any difference to Barnabus that some of the believers were Gentiles and not Jews.

**Growth in number of believers (11:24).** We are told of the spiritual condition of Barnabus and in the same sentence we are informed that there was great numerical growth in believers. I believe that we have this information

because God wants us to see there is a direct relationship between a godly life and effectiveness in soul winning.

**Teaching and continued growth (11:25-26).** Barnabus was wise enough to see that he needed help and went to Tarsus to seek Paul. Barnabus could have made an overland trip to Tarsus from Antioch and back to Antioch. However, we are not told how he made the trip.

The important matter is that he found Paul and upon their return, they taught a great number of people. The numbers of people taught also speaks volumes as to their effectiveness as teachers. The lifestyle of the believers earned them the title of Christians.

**Sending out missionaries (13:1-3)** God had given the church at Antioch plenty of leadership in several areas of ministry. During an intensive time of

worship, the Holy Spirit spoke to the church at worship and told them to appoint, commission and send out missionaries.

The Holy Spirit was very specific and named the individuals to be sent. It should be noted that this is the first intentional effort by the church to send out missionaries.

**God speaks to us.** I believe that God wants us to understand that along with intensive evangelism there must be teaching of new converts. New converts must be equipped to live a Christ-like life and equipped to minister to each other and to nonbelievers. The result will be continual growth in the church. As the church grows and as the individual Christian grows, there will be an accompanying mission activity growth.

Simmons is pastor of Hebron Church, Grenada.

## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### A time for examination

Mark 14:12-25

By Grace Graham

**Preparation (4:12-16).** What is the value of advance preparation for worship? Does it make a difference to arrive for worship with an attitude of expectation? Jesus instructed two disciples to prepare the Passover celebration for him and his disciples.

Mark sets the stage of the last supper by giving instructions for the Passover meal. Passover, or the feast of unleavened bread, was an annual celebration of the final plague, when the firstborn of the Egyptians died and the Israelites were spared because of the blood smeared on their door posts. Only unleavened bread was

eaten for seven days following Passover, symbolizing the people's hurried departure from Egypt.

The disciples knew that preparation for the feast was important. They asked Jesus where he wanted them to go and prepare for the Passover meal. He sent two disciples to accomplish the task. (Luke 22:8 identifies them as Peter and John.) They were to seek a man carrying a jar of water. Since this was "woman's work," he would be easily identified and they would follow him to the place Jesus had already reserved.

Because they were to ask for the "guest room" it seems that Jesus had prearranged the place



Graham

and the way that his disciples would find it. He wanted this meal to be undisturbed by his enemies. The disciples took their instructions from Jesus and found everything as he said. They prepared the Passover meal in a large, furnished, upper room.

**Examination (14:17-21).**

After sunset, Jesus and his disciples arrived at the house. As they were eating, Jesus gave them the horrifying news. One of them would betray him. One by one they asked "Is it I?"

Jesus told them that he knew that his death was bound to happen. His cry of woe to the betrayer was out of deep sorrow and compassion. He knew that his act would be so tragic for the perpetrator that he would wish that he had never been born.

How truly difficult it is to take a good hard look at ourselves. Are you willing to agree

with God about a specific obstacle in your life? Give it to him today that you may experience the humility, gratitude, and joy of being in his presence.

**Revelation (14:22-25).** Jesus used the bread and the wine to explain the significance of his approaching death and to model the observance of the Lord's Supper, a symbol of the new covenant validated by his sacrificial death. He broke the loaf of bread and gave it to the disciples. He used this picture to show them how his body would be broken for them. Most Old Testament sacrifices involved portions of the offerings being eaten by worshippers. Jesus said that those who shared the broken bread were to share in the power and meaning of his sacrifice.

The wine represented the shed blood of Jesus; the "covenant blood" initiating a solemn agreement between God and people. This is not

unlike the agreement made by God at Mount Sinai.

This was a new covenant that would be sanctioned by Christ's blood. No more would there be a requirement for sacrifice. He was the final, perfect sin offering, given for all who would believe and accept the gift of forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Verse 25 is given in the form of a vow. Jesus consecrated himself openly to his own mission. He would not drink wine again until the day his work was complete.

The symbols of the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper can lead us to a deeper understanding of the broken body and shed blood of Christ. Allow the Lord to reveal himself to you through the partaking of this element of worship. Prepare yourself to come before him with great expectation!

Graham is Childhood Education Director at First Church, Gulfport.

## LIFE AND WORK

### Moral absolutes

Ex. 33:16-19a, 34:1, 5; Ps. 25:8-10, 119:65-68;

Mal. 3:6-7; James 1:17; 3 John 11

By Jim Burnett

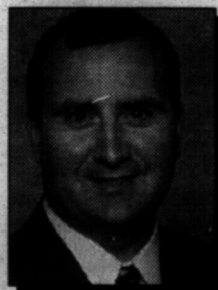
Have you ever been faced with a difficult decision and were not sure what to do? How did you handle it? Did you poll your friends, ask the psychics, consult your horoscope, or receive counsel from God through his Word? Some today would say the Bible is no longer a trustworthy book. It's antiquated, outdated, and full of ridiculous commands.

Years ago while teaching a youth discipleship training class in a church in New Orleans, a teenage girl asked me why God gave us all these rules and laws to live by. I assured her that it was done out of his grace. He gave us healthy boundaries to live the abundant life. Venturing

outside these boundaries makes one easy prey for Satan.

**God has revealed his character and will (Exodus 33:16-19a; 34:1,5).** One day Phillip, one of Christ's disciples, asked Jesus to reveal God to him and his cohorts. Amazed at Phillip's spiritual blindness, Jesus assured him he'd seen the Father through the person and character of Christ.

Just as Jesus is a revelation of God's character and will, so is the holy Word, the Bible. If you want to know what God thinks, read his Word. If you desire to know and be in God's will, read and obey his Word. God's Word is dependable. His absolutes are absolute. His principles are perfect, and his standards are stable.



Burnett

His laws reflect his character and his words are a revelation of his will. Are you standing on his promises and obeying his principles?

**God's character does not change (Malachi 3:6-7; James 1:17).** Does God change with the centuries, the millenniums, the weather, fads? No, he is the same yesterday,

today, and forevermore. God is portrayed today as a fickle-minded deity who changes with the seasons. Just consider society's attitude toward homosexuality, same-sex marriage, abortion, premarital sex, etc. Has God edited his Word? You would think so by the behavior and beliefs of many so called Christians today.

Sadly, some mainstream denominations are stamping approval on lifestyles that are offensive to God and contrary to the Bible. Although, people deem practices, behaviors, and beliefs kosher, their opinions fail to influence the unchanging

character of God. His standard is a permanent, eternal anchor that holds throughout the ages, fads, beliefs, and cultures. Because his character and standard are changeless, we can, without hesitation, trust him with our lives.

Today, perhaps you are embroiled in a situation that tempts you to adjust the Word of God. Resist the temptation, for altering God's Word reaps serious consequences for the present and future. Don't listen to the soothsayers and philosophers of today that say God's Word no longer applies. They wouldn't know the truth if it struck them between the eyes.

**God's people are to live by his commands (Psalm 25:8-10; 119:65-68; 3 John 11).** Can a person be saved and continue in the same sin? Let me preface this with two statements. First, nobody but God can look into a person's heart and know his exact spiritual condition. Second, every person is at a different place in his or her spiritual journey.

What alarms me today, however, is the divorce that seems to have taken place between profession and practice, belief and behavior, articulation and action. Have we forgotten what James said: "Faith without works is dead?" Or how about Jesus' statement: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments?"

In Psalm 25:8-10, David describes the kind of God we serve and his expectations for us. He mentions words like good and upright, justice, humility, lovingkindness, and truth. Do these words describe your character? Are you producing these fruits?

David continues in Psalm 119:65-68 with the words discernment and knowledge. God's people manifest the character of God when they obey the Word of God. Talk is cheap. Anyone can sing "Oh How I Love Jesus." But it takes a person sold out to Jesus to live the song.

Burnett is pastor of Raymond Road Church, Jackson.



# Roberts: church failure fueling cult growth

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — The growth of cults in America is primarily the result of the church's failure to faithfully carry out its biblically ordained purpose of ministry, Southern Baptist cults expert Phil Roberts asserted April 9 at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The director of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's interfaith witness evangelism team noted Southern Baptists are gearing up for a major evangelistic blitz of Mormon-dominated Salt Lake City during the upcoming SBC annual meeting.

"We're going to see the largest concentration of evangelistic effort for any city in North America take place this year in Salt Lake City," Roberts said.

The campaign will include television commercials, direct mail and a thousand college and seminary students undertaking a "10-day mission, if I can use that word, blowing the Mormons' minds with Baptists knocking on their doors for a change!" he declared.

Roberts also noted the six Southern Baptist seminaries are "joining hands" in an unprecedented effort to sponsor a four-day workshop on Mormonism the week before the SBC's June 9-11 annual meeting in Salt Lake City.

Led by the NAMB interfaith witness team, the workshop will feature lessons on Mormon theology and how to witness to members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

About 150-200 seminarians are expected to participate, according to Roberts.

The growth of aberrant religions and New Age cults "has absolutely nothing to do with either sociological or cultural reasons," Roberts insisted, in a message preached from Ephesians 4:11-14. Instead, "The growth of cults is due to the unpaid debts of the church.

"When the church fails to do the ministry God has called it to do and to proclaim the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with fervency and effectiveness, we create a seedbed, a foundation, for the growth" of cults, Roberts said.

Roberts explained that New Age best-

Although it is true every believer has direct access to God through Jesus Christ, its "vertical" aspect, Roberts pointed to a need "to re-emphasize the horizontal level.

"We're called to minister to one another." Cults provide the caring and fellowship people are seeking but fail to find in

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
copyright 1998

NEW HNAT PE AZBG, NK  
QVCPKO NAKZ VNOV  
AZBGW DK, NEW VNOV  
SPBGE VPKGAX XZC DK  
NE ZXXGCPES NEW N  
KNQCPXPQG OZ SZW  
XZC N KHGGOKYGAAPES  
KNBZDC.

GLVGKPNK XPBG: OHZ

Clue: Q = C

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Eleven Twenty-Five.

## SSB children's music set for revamp

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The first major redesign of Southern Baptist children's music curriculum in almost 30 years will be unveiled with the Fall 1998 publications for pupils and their leaders.

Rhonda Edge Buescher, preschool/music team leader for the Sunday School Board's music ministries department, said an emphasis on spiritual objectives, along with music education goals, will be paired with a more user-friendly approach in the Children's Music Series for churches using traditional or blended music. She described the new approach as "a work in progress that will continue to be refined and improved with each quarter."

The last major changes for traditional children's music curriculum came in 1970. A new curriculum for praise and worship, "Made for Praise," was introduced in 1996.

"Music and Me" is a new resource for use with 3-year-olds. Other publications in the series are "Music Time," a 24-page, full-color magazine for ages 4 and 5; "Children's Choir," a 56-page publication for small churches combining grades one through six; "Music Makers," 56 pages, including 24 activity pages, for grades one through three; and "Young Musicians," 56 pages, including 24 activity pages, for grades four through six. Both "Children's Choir" and "Young Musicians" offer suggested adaptations for use in homeschooling.

Buescher said while publications are available individually, age-group packs will be offered to

include a teacher's guide with reproducible loose-leaf activity pages, an instructional video for leaders, visual teaching aids that replace resource kits and a CD and a cassette of the music and activities for the age group. Additional cassettes are available separately; all other components are available only in packs. Age-group magazines are available per copy for each child.

Instructional videos feature master teachers modeling music education concepts that may be difficult to explain in a lesson plan. The numerous spiritual activities, which are self-explanatory, are not included in the videos, Buescher explained.

Among advantages of the new series are multiple uses for choir, Christian school or homeschool settings; a balance between spiritual emphases and music education objectives, user-friendly format for lesson plans instead of a magazine format; bright colors and eye-catching art; recordings produced by Ted Wilson and Janet McMahan-Wilson, who also have produced public school series recordings for Silver Burdett and Ginn; video demonstrations; and cost.

An entire quarter's music, activity pages, lesson plans, recordings, video and teaching aids for an age-group children's choir, Buescher said, compares to the cost of one adult choir anthem for one Sunday. Approximately \$70 of resources is offered for \$44.95, and the reproducible teacher's guide increases the saving in proportion to the number of teachers.

## From Mississippi, with love



Mississippi Baptists, asked again to help starving North Koreans, responded by donating 63,375 pounds — nearly 32 tons — of food to be shipped in late April. Each 76-pound box contains dried beans, corn meal, flour, spaghetti, rice, and powdered milk. Each box has the message, "Southern Baptists in America's Love Gift to North Korea." Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force members loaded the boxes last week at the Baptist Building in Jackson, which were delivered by churches and associations across the state. Working to load the big truck were (from left) Bobby Kennedy of Wesson; William Wright of Carthage; and Jerry Bishop of Union. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

selling fiction author James Redfield said in a recent newspaper interview he turned away from his mainline Protestant upbringing because "all he heard were moralisms and platitudes and political speeches from the pulpit. ...

"He never heard anything that fed his soul, that gave him spiritual insight or taught him the way of salvation."

The church's "unpaid debts," according to Roberts, can be seen in faulty methods of evangelism, ecclesiology, doctrine, and missions.

Children who are encouraged by their parents to walk the aisle during the invitation and are baptized the same day without any sign of true regeneration become "prospect number one for the cults," Roberts said.

He contrasted such evangelism with a German evangelist whose invitations at the end of crusade services are for inquirers to attend a three-hour counseling session.

During the session he explains the gospel, the theology of salvation and what the Christian life means.

The evangelist then passes along to pastors the names of inquirers, 60 percent of whom become members of local congregations.

An overemphasis on the individualistic aspects of the priesthood of the believer is an example of improper ecclesiology among Baptists, Roberts said.

too many churches," he explained.

Another "unpaid debt" among Baptist churches, Roberts said, is the failure to teach doctrine.

Many Baptists are converted to Mormonism because they are impressed by Mormon missionaries who seem to have answers to all their questions and who teach their beliefs with "genuine conviction," Roberts said.

"The problem in our churches is not that people have had too much doctrine. The problem is that they haven't had any," he added.

"They haven't been taught and grounded in the truths of God's Word in an effective and in an interesting way that shows them its relevance."

Southern Baptists have also suffered a failure of missions, Roberts said.

Mormons currently send out 50,000 missionaries per year and have set a goal of having 100,000 annual missionaries by the year 2005 and hope to baptize 1 million converts per year.

This aggressive enterprise is a result of the fact that missions is a "part of their culture" in which children are taught by their parents to look forward to their two-year mission, Roberts said.

"They've created a culture where the exceptions are the ones that stay. We've created a culture where the exceptions are the ones who go," Roberts said.

"Somehow we have to recapture the vision that everyone, especially young people, have a very real and important part to play, not just in assistance and service ministry, but in actual evangelism and the spreading of the gospel around the world," he pointed out.